

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A signal processing apparatus comprising:
 - a noise suppressor having a plurality of different noise suppression characteristics, suppressing background noise contained in a speech signal;
 - a speech encoder having a plurality of different coding algorithm, encoding the suppressed speech signal by using one of said different coding algorithm; and
 - wherein said noise suppressor selects one noise suppression characteristic in accordance with the used coding algorithm at the speech encoder.
2. A signal processing apparatus comprising:
 - a noise suppressor having a plurality of different noise suppression characteristics, suppressing background noise contained in a speech signal;
 - a speech encoder having a plurality of different coding rates, encoding the suppressed speech signal by using one of said different coding rates; and
 - wherein said noise suppressor selects one noise suppression characteristic in accordance with the used coding rate at the speech encoder.
3. The signal processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the noise suppressor comprising a frequency divider dividing the speech signal into several speech signals, each of the speech signals having a different frequency band, said noise suppressor only suppressing background noise contained

in the speech signal having a predetermined frequency band if the speech encoder selects a predetermined coding rate for encoding the speech signal.

4. The signal processing apparatus according to
5 claim 2, wherein the noise suppressor comprising a frequency divider dividing the speech signal into several speech signals, each of the speech signals having a different frequency band, said noise suppressor stops suppressing background noise contained
10 in the speech signal having a predetermined frequency band if the speech encoder selects a predetermined coding rate for encoding the speech signal.

5. The signal processing apparatus according to
claim 2, wherein the noise suppressor stops suppressing background noise contained in the speech signal if the
15 speech encoder selects a predetermined coding rate for encoding the speech signal.

6. The signal processing apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the noise suppressor comprising a
20 parameter setting means for setting a parameter so as to select an optimal noise suppression characteristic, said parameters varies the noise suppression characteristics.

7. The signal processing apparatus according to
25 claim 1, wherein said parameters are set in accordance with the used coding algorithm at the speech encoder.

8. The signal processing apparatus according to

claim 2, wherein the noise suppressor comprising a parameter setting means for setting a parameter so as to select an optimal noise suppression characteristic, said parameters varies the noise suppression characteristics.

9. The signal processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said parameters are set in accordance with the used coding algorithm at the speech encoder.

10. A signal processing apparatus comprising:
a speech decoder having a plurality of different decoding algorithm, decoding the encoded speech signal by using one of said different decoding algorithm;
a noise suppressor having a plurality of different noise suppression characteristics, suppressing noise component contained in the decoded speech signal; and
wherein said noise suppressor selects one noise suppression characteristics in accordance with the used decoding algorithm at the speech encoder.

11. A signal processing apparatus comprising:
a speech decoder having a plurality of different decoding rates, decoding the encoded speech signal by using one of said different coding rates;
a noise suppressor having a plurality of different noise suppression characteristics, suppressing noise component contained in the decoded speech signal; and
wherein said noise suppressor selects one noise suppression characteristic in accordance with the used

rate at the speech encoder.

12. The signal processing apparatus according to
claim 11, wherein the noise suppressor only suppressing
the noise component contained in the decoded signal
5 having a predetermined frequency band if the speech
decoder selects a predetermined rate for decoding the
encoded speech signal.

13. The signal processing apparatus according to
claim 11, wherein the noise suppressor stops
10 suppressing the noise component contained in the
decoded speech signal having a predetermined frequency
band if the speech decoder selects a predetermined rate
for decoding the encoded speech signal.

14. The signal processing apparatus according to
15 claim 11, wherein the noise suppressor stops
suppressing background noise contained in the decoded
speech signal if the speech decoder selects a
predetermined ratio for decoding the encoded speech
signal.

20 15. The signal processing apparatus according to
claim 10, wherein the noise suppressor comprising a
parameter setting means for setting a parameter so as
to select an optimal noise suppression characteristic,
said parameters varies the noise suppression
25 characteristics.

16. The signal processing apparatus according to
claim 10, wherein said parameter is set in accordance

with the used coding algorithm at the speech encoder.

17. The signal processing apparatus according to
claim 11, wherein the noise suppressor comprising a
parameter setting means for setting a parameter so as
5 to select an optimal noise suppression characteristic,
said parameters varies the noise suppression
characteristics.

10 18. The signal processing apparatus according to
claim 11, wherein said parameter is set in accordance
with the used rate at the speech encoder.

19. A signal processing apparatus for use in a
device in which a hands-free function is selectively
usable, the apparatus comprising:

15 a noise suppressor having at least two different
noise suppression characteristics, suppressing
background noise contained in a speech signal; and said
noise suppressor having a switch which selects a
suitable suppression characteristic from the different
noise suppression characteristics in accordance with
20 the use of the hands-free function.

20 25 21. The signal processing apparatus according to
claim 19, wherein the noise suppressor comprising a
parameter setting means for setting a parameter so as
to select an optimal noise suppression characteristic,
said parameters varies the noise suppression
characteristics.

21. The signal processing apparatus according to

claim 20, wherein said parameter is set in accordance with the use of the hands-free function.

22. A mobile radio communication terminal having a signal processing apparatus, said signal processing apparatus comprising:

5 a noise suppressor having a plurality of different noise suppression characteristics, suppressing background noise contained in a speech signal;

10 a speech encoder having a plurality of different coding algorithm, encoding the suppressed speech signal by using one of said different coding algorithm; and

wherein said noise suppressor selects one noise suppression characteristics in accordance with the used coding algorithm at the speech encoder.

15 23. A mobile radio communication terminal having a signal processing apparatus, said signal processing apparatus comprising:

a noise suppressor having a plurality of different noise suppression characteristics, suppressing background noise contained in a speech signal;

20 a speech encoder having a plurality of different coding rates, encoding the suppressed speech signal by using one of said different coding rates; and

wherein said noise suppressor selects one noise suppression characteristics in accordance with the used coding rate at the speech encoder.

25 24. A signal processing apparatus comprising:

5 a noise suppressor having a plurality of different noise suppression characteristics, suppressing background noise contained in a speech signal, where the number of said noise suppression characteristics is Q (Q: a positive integer);

10 a speech encoder having a plurality of different coding algorithm, encoding the suppressed speech signal by using one of said different coding algorithm, where the number of said coding algorithm is P (P: a positive integer); and

15 wherein said noise suppressor selects one noise suppression characteristic in accordance with the used coding algorithm at the speech encoder, the following relationship is established:

$$P \geq Q > 1.$$

25. A signal processing apparatus comprising:

20 a noise suppressor having a plurality of different noise suppression characteristics, suppressing background noise contained in a speech signal, where the number of said noise suppression characteristics is Q (Q: a positive integer);

25 a speech encoder having a plurality of different coding rates, encoding the suppressed speech signal by using one of said different coding rates, where the number of said coding rates is R (R: a positive integer); and

wherein said noise suppressor selects one noise

suppression characteristic in accordance with the used coding rate at the speech encoder, the following relationship is established:

$$R \geq Q > 1.$$

5 26. A signal processing apparatus comprising:

a noise suppressor having a plurality of different noise suppression characteristics, suppressing background noise contained in a speech signal, said noise suppression characteristics is varied in accordance with a parameter set by a parameter setting means;

10 a speech encoder having a plurality of different coding algorithm, encoding the suppressed speech signal by using one of said different coding algorithm, where the number of said coding algorithm is P (P: a positive 15 integer); and

15 wherein said parameter setting means set a suitable parameter so as to select an optimal noise suppression characteristic in accordance with the used 20 coding algorithm at the speech encoder, where the number of said parameter is S (S: a positive integer), the following relationship is established:

$$R \geq S > 1.$$

25 27. A signal processing apparatus comprising:

a noise suppressor having a plurality of different noise suppression characteristics, suppressing background noise contained in a speech signal, said

noise suppression characteristics is varied in accordance with a parameter set by a parameter setting means;

5 a speech encoder having a plurality of different coding rates, encoding the suppressed speech signal by using one of said different coding rates, where the number of said coding rates is R (R: a positive integer); and

10 wherein said parameter setting means set a suitable parameter so as to select an optimal noise suppression characteristic in accordance with the used coding rate at the speech encoder, where the number of said parameter is S (S: a positive integer), the following relationship is established:

15 $R \geq S > 1.$